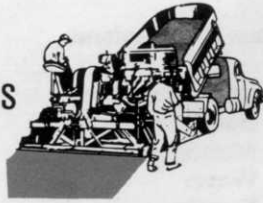


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The Search for Greener Grasses

By Helen Fosgate
Georgia Experiment Stations

GRIFFIN, Ga. — More than 400 people gathered recently at the 1986 Turfgrass Field Day at the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station here. Some people might be surprised to find that there is such interest in growing grass, but not those familiar with this flourishing industry.

Turfgrass is a major agricultural industry in Georgia now. And the Georgia Station is one of the top research facilities in the country for turfgrass research. The tour was to show the public just how the experiments involving turfgrass are progressing.

The effort doesn't just involve scientists from the Georgia Station. Researchers in agronomy, entomology and plant pathology from the College Station in Athens and the Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton are also involved in the effort.

Urban agriculture in fact, has become one of the major thrusts of the Georgia Station in recent years. Situated less than 70 miles south of the Atlanta metropolitan area, the Georgia Station is in an ideal position to look at programs that will benefit those living in urban areas.

Among the four presentations were evaluation of new turfgrass cultivars and cultivation methods, the irrigation needs of turfgrass species, the effectiveness of herbicides, the influence of soil pH on growth and the effectiveness of plant growth regulators on bermudagrass. Also the enhancement of color in centipede grasses with iron and nitrogen was featured, as well as the use of preemergent herbicides for weed control and turfgrass tolerance to traffic, herbicides and plant growth regulators.

The field day was designed for golf course superintendents, parks and recreation directors and employees, athletic coaches and grounds maintenance personnel and interested homeowners. In fact, there are thousands of Georgians whose livelihood is directly involved with the maintenance and control of turfgrasses.

The benefits of the research being carried out in Georgia's Agricultural Experiment Station are many. Thousands of homeowners stand to benefit from the work being done here, as do industries. ■

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